

Light propagation in tunable exciton-polariton one-dimensional photonic crystals

E. S. Sedov,^{1,2,*} E. D. Cherotchenko,¹ S. M. Arakelian,³ and A. V. Kavokin^{1,4,5,†}

¹*School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, SO17 1NJ Southampton, United Kingdom*

²*Department of Physics and Applied Mathematics,*

Vladimir State University named after A. G. and N. G. Stoletovs, Gorky str. 87, 600000, Vladimir, Russia

³*Department of Physics and Applied Mathematics,*

Vladimir State University named after A. G. and N. G. Stoletovs, Gorky street 87, 600000, Vladimir, Russia

⁴*CNR-SPIN, Viale del Politecnico 1, I-00133, Rome, Italy*

⁵*Spin Optics Laboratory, St. Petersburg State University,
Ul'yanovskaya 1, Peterhof, St. Petersburg 198504, Russia*

Simulations of propagation of light beams in specially designed multilayer semiconductor structures (one-dimensional photonic crystals) with embedded quantum wells reveal characteristic optical properties of resonant hyperbolic metamaterials. A strong dependence of the refraction angle and the optical beam spread on the exciton radiative lifetime is revealed. We demonstrate the strong negative refraction of light and the control of the group velocity of light by an external bias through its effect upon the exciton radiative properties.

I. INTRODUCTION

Metamaterials are artificial composite structures that demonstrate unusual optical properties not achievable in natural materials^{1,2}. Hyperbolic metamaterials (HMMs) represent an important group of metamaterials characterised by specific relations between components of dielectric permittivity (ϵ) and magnetic susceptibility (μ) tensors². Namely, the diagonal components of either ϵ or μ tensors in HMMs have opposite signs.

The presently studied HMMs are mostly based on metal-dielectric composites, whereas the presence of specially designed metallic elements, *e. g.* metallic spheres, disks, rods, etc., provides the required properties of ϵ and μ tensors³⁻⁶. The successful application of this approach to the fabrication of HMMs has been demonstrated in the microwave spectral range with use of metal wires and split ring resonators^{7,8}. The metal-dielectric HMMs have been developed in the near-infrared and visible frequency bands, see *e. g.*⁹⁻¹². One of the intriguing effects observed in HMMs is negative refraction^{4,8,13,14}. This effect is very promising for the development of hyperlenses^{9,15} characterized by the spatial resolution beyond the diffraction limit as well as in optical cloaking^{16,17}.

As noticed in¹³, negative refraction materials can be based not only on HMMs but on photonic crystal (PC) structures as well. Although both HMMs and PCs are complex structured materials, unlike the former, which can be considered as a quasi-homogeneous medium with the effective constitutive parameters, the latter possesses the elementary building blocks being of the same size order as the impinging wavelength. Various optical effects in periodically stratified media that are, in fact, one-dimensional PC's caused by anomalous refraction have been observed in works of Russell (see *e.g.* Refs. 18–20). It has been shown in Ref. 21 that the hyperbolic dispersion of light modes can be achieved in such structures with positive ϵ and μ tensors. Recent publications²²⁻²⁴ provide further details on the design of pure dielectric PC-based materials with hyperbolic dispersion.

Both in the metal-dielectric metamaterials and in the PC-based materials the propagation of light is governed by the structure parameters and composition, so that the external control of light trajectories is hardly achievable. Meanwhile, it is technologically important to provide a significant tunability of the optical properties of the materials, *e. g.* using ultrashort optical pulse pumping of free carriers²⁵, introducing small perturbations in the near field of the photon modes or temperature tuning of the refractive index²⁶. To answer this technological challenge one may try to embed in PCs objects that willingly respond to the external impact and help modifying the optical properties of the whole system²⁷. The role of such tunable elements can be played *e. g.* by ultracold two-level atoms^{28,29}, quantum dots³⁰, diamond nitrogen-vacancy centers³¹, or Cooper-pair boxes.

Recently, specially designed planar multilayer semiconductor structures demonstrating properties of resonant HMMs (RHMMs) have been theoretically proposed. The model structure considered in³² represents a modified semiconductor Bragg mirror, containing periodically arranged quantum wells (QWs). It was shown by modeling that such a structure should demonstrate properties of HMMs in a spectral range where the dispersion of its optical eigen-modes acquires a hyperbolic character. Based on this similarity of eigen-mode dispersion properties, we refer to such a structure as RHMM. This structure may be also qualified as a PC because its period is on the order of a half wavelength of light. We shall use the term HMM because it was introduced in the previous publication³² and it correctly describes the phenomenology of light propagation in the considered structures. The structure proposed in Ref. 32 has a significant advantage over traditional HMMs since it contains no metallic elements that would absorb and scatter light leading to unavoidable losses. In addition, it offers the possibility of tuning its optical properties by applying external electric and magnetic fields that modify the exciton radiative lifetime and, consequently, affect the exciton-light coupling strength.

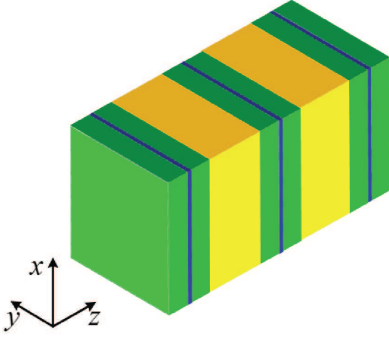


FIG. 1. (Color online) Schematic picture of RHMM, a spatially-periodic array of alternating dielectric layers of different widths and refractive indices, with the layers of one type contain single QWs placed in their centers.

In this paper, we demonstrate how the proposed RHMM allows tailoring of the wave packets and control of the effective refractive index and the group velocity of light. We model propagation of light beams in such RHMMs and show the negative refraction and the control of the trajectory of the beams by external bias.

II. NEGATIVE EFFECTIVE MASS IN RHMM: THE LOW ANGLE OF INCIDENCE LIMIT

We consider the structure schematically shown in Fig. 1 which was first proposed by some of the authors of this paper in³². The structure represents a spatially-periodic array of alternating dielectric layers of different widths and refractive indices, with the layers of one type containing single QWs placed in their centers. We assume cylindric symmetry of the system and introduce the in-QW-plane radial coordinate ρ .

To describe the optical dispersion properties of the structure, we use the transfer matrix technique following^{33,34}. Namely, we introduce a vector $\Phi = (E(\mathbf{r}, t), cB(\mathbf{r}, t))^T$, where $E(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and $B(\mathbf{r}, t)$ are the amplitudes of electric and magnetic fields, a superscript (T) denotes transposition. Considering propagation in the z direction that coincides with the structure growth axis, it is possible to link the field amplitude of a light wave entering the layer of width D with one of a light wave leaving this layer by the following equation:

$$\hat{T} \Phi|_{z=z_i} = \Phi|_{z=z_i+D}, \quad (1)$$

where \hat{T} is the transfer matrix through the period of the structure. Since each period D is formed by four successive layers, namely, the first type half layer, QW, the first type half layer again, and the second type layer, the transfer matrix \hat{T} is found as a product of the transfer matrices through the corresponding layers in the reverse order, *i.e.*, $\hat{T} = \hat{T}_{d_2} \hat{T}_{d_1/2} \hat{T}_{\text{QW}} \hat{T}_{d_1/2}$. The submatrices are

given by

$$\hat{T}_{d_j} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(k_{zj}d_j) & \frac{ik_0}{k_{zj}} \sin(k_{zj}d_j) \\ \frac{ik_{zj}}{k_0} \sin(k_{zj}d_j) & \cos(k_{zj}d_j) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2a)$$

$$\hat{T}_{\text{QW}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2\frac{k_{z1}r_{\text{QW}}}{k_0t_{\text{QW}}} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2b)$$

where $k_0 = \omega/c$, and $k_{z1,2} = \sqrt{n_{1,2}^2 k_0^2 - k_\rho^2}$, and $\mathbf{k}_\rho = (k_x, k_y)$ is the in-plane wavevector component; $n_{1,2}$ are the refractive indices of the first and second sublayers respectively. In the calculations we assume QWs to be infinitely thin. The coefficients r_{QW} and $t_{\text{QW}} = 1 + r_{\text{QW}}$ are the amplitude reflection and transmission coefficients of the QW. According to^{34,35}, the former is given by

$$r_{\text{QW}} = \frac{in_1 k_0 \Gamma_0 / k_{z1}}{\omega_X - \omega - i(\Gamma + n_1 k_0 \Gamma_0 / k_{z1})}. \quad (3)$$

where Γ_0 and Γ determine the radiative and nonradiative decay rates, respectively, and ω_X is the QW exciton resonance frequency. The relative QW permittivity in the growth direction can be estimated with respect to the following expression:

$$\varepsilon_{\text{QW}} = \varepsilon_1 \left(1 + \frac{2n_1 \Gamma_0 / k_{z1} D}{\omega_X - \omega - i\Gamma} \right). \quad (4)$$

The dispersion equation for the eigen-modes of an infinite periodic structure is given by

$$\cos(KD) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\hat{T}], \quad (5)$$

where K is a normal to QW-plane pseudo-wave vector component. Figures 2 (a) and (b) demonstrate dispersions of the light modes in a modified Bragg mirror structure without [Fig. 2(a)] and with [Fig. 2(b)] embedded periodically arranged narrow QWs characterized by the radiative decay rate $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 2$ meV. As a model structure we consider a GaN/Al_{0.3}Ga_{0.7}N Bragg mirror with embedded thin In_{0.12}Ga_{0.88}N quantum wells. The thicknesses of the layers and their refractive indices are taken as $d_1 = 64.8$ nm, $n_1 = 2.55$ and $d_2 = 115.3$ nm, $n_2 = 2.15$, the period of the lattice $D = d_1 + d_2$ is 180.1 nm. For the given parameters the structure exhibits a second photonic band gap centered to $\hbar\omega_B \simeq 3$ eV in a QW-free case, see. Fig. 2(a). The QW exciton resonance energy $\hbar\omega_X$ is tuned close to the lower boundary of the second photonic band gap, $\hbar\omega_X \simeq 2.95$ eV. The QW nonradiative decay rate is taken as $\hbar\Gamma = 0.1$ meV. The radiative decay rate Γ_0 is a tunable parameter that strongly depends on the applied electric field. The tuning of Γ_0 by the external bias is addressed in the Appendix.

The presence of QWs leads to two principal changes in the dispersion of the eigen-modes. The first one is the appearance of four dispersion branches instead of the two characteristic of a QW-free structure due to the vacuum field Rabi-splitting originated from the QW exciton-photon coupling. The resulting eigen-states of the system are exciton-polaritons.

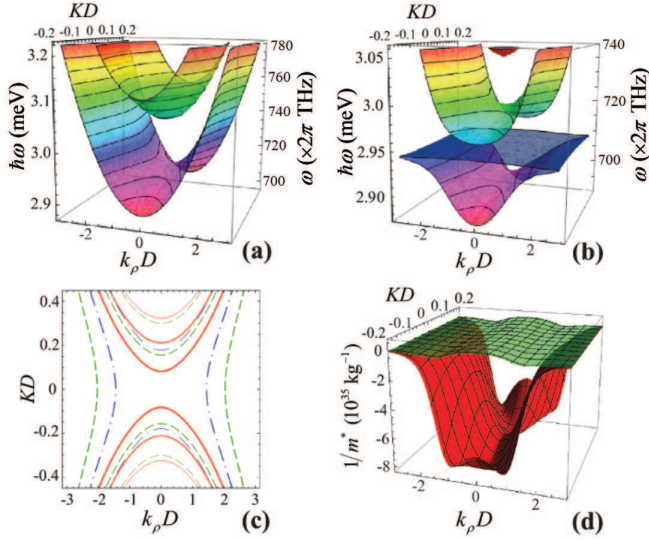


FIG. 2. (Color online) Dispersion of the photonic eigen-modes for the structure (a) without and (b) with embedded QWs (b). (c) — Equi-frequency contours in the reciprocal space showing the structure eigen modes belonging to the lowest dispersion band corresponding to the different values of Γ_0 : $\Gamma_0 = 0$ for the red (solid) curves, $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 2$ meV for the green (dashed) curves, and $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 10$ meV for the blue (dash-dotted) curves. Different thicknesses of the curves correspond to different energies $\hbar\omega$ (from the thickest to the thinnest): 2.94 meV, 2.89 meV and 2.84 meV, respectively. (Table I contains the corresponding relative QW permittivities ε_{QW} .) (d) Inverse exciton-polariton effective mass tensor components in the structure. The red surface corresponds to the effective mass in the z -direction, m_z^* (z being the growth axis of the structure), and the green surface corresponds to the in-plane effective mass, m_p^* . The parameters used in the calculation are given in the text. The QW radiative decay rate for (d) is taken as $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 2$ meV.

The other change is the formation of the three-dimensional polaritonic band gap [see Fig. 2(b)]. It is necessary to mention, that the presence of QWs pushes the lowest dispersion branch (LB) to the lower energies and the greater the shift, the larger the value of Γ_0 . If a QW exciton is resonant with an eigenmode of the photonic cavity structure, the exciton-photon results in the appearance of new exciton-polariton eigen modes, in the strong coupling regime. In the limit of weak coupling, exciton and photon modes would cross each other. In contrast, the strong coupling manifests itself in the anti-crossing (avoided crossing) of the modes. The dispersion of the structure eigenmodes is no more photonic or excitonic, but polaritonic. The increase of the exciton-photon coupling due to the increase of the exciton radiative decay rate results in the growing energy level repulsion.

The exciton radiative decay rate is controlled by the applied electric field (see the Appendix).

Figure 2(c) demonstrates equi-frequency contours (EFCs) in the (Kk_ρ) plane for a number of LB eigen energies $\hbar\omega$ for different values of Γ_0 . It is clearly seen,

TABLE I. Relative QW permittivity ε_{QW} in the growth direction.

	$\hbar\Gamma_0 = 2$ meV	$\hbar\Gamma_0 = 10$ meV
$\hbar\omega$	ε_{QW}	ε_{QW}
2.84 eV	$6.59372 + i0.00008$	$6.95861 + i0.00041$
2.89 eV	$6.66685 + i0.00027$	$7.32424 + i0.00137$
2.94 eV	$7.47172 + i0.00969$	$11.34860 + i0.04846$

that with the increase of Γ_0 opposite branches of EFCs approach each other until the gap in the K direction closes and the gap in the k_ρ direction opens. Table I below gives values of the relative QW permittivity ε_{QW} in the growth direction estimated with respect to Eq. (4) for Γ_0 and ω used in Fig. 2(c). The case $\Gamma_0 = 0$ corresponds to the absence of QWs in the structure, hence the permittivity of GaN layers remains unmodulated and equal to ε_1 .

Hereafter, we consider only the LB and neglect three upper polariton branches that are split in energy and do not affect the propagation of light in the spectral range of our interest. Our structure behaves like a HMM in the specific frequency range in the vicinity of the LB saddle point $(K, k_\rho = 0)$.

A. A QW-free modified Bragg mirror

Let us first consider the QW-free structure assuming $\Gamma_0 = 0$. Following Ref. 22, we can easily obtain the saddle-point frequency ω_0 . To do this, we restrict ourselves to the limit $K, k_\rho \ll 1/D$, *i.e.*, we consider the system in the vicinity of the center of the first Brillouin zone (BZ). We make the Taylor expansion of Eq. (5) and obtain in the zeroth order

$$1 = \cos(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) - \frac{n_1^2 + n_2^2}{2n_1n_2} \sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2), \quad (6)$$

where $\theta_{1,2} = \omega_0 n_{1,2} d_{1,2}/c$. The subscript j numerates dispersion branches. For the QW-free structure $j = 1, 2$. In the general form the effective photonic mass tensor components are given by $m_{j,\alpha}^* = \hbar (\partial^2 \omega_j / \partial k_\alpha^2)^{-1}$ with $k_\alpha = K, k_\rho$. Taking the second derivative of both right and left parts of Eq. (5) over the wave vector components in the saddle point it is easy to obtain analytical expressions for the effective photonic mass tensor components:

$$m_{j,z}^{\text{ph}}|_{K,k_\rho=0} = \frac{\hbar}{D^2 c} \left[\sin(\theta_2) \cos(\theta_1) \left(d_2 n_2 + \frac{d_1(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_2} \right) + \sin(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) \left(d_1 n_1 + \frac{d_2(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_1} \right) \right], \quad (7a)$$

$$m_{j,\rho}^{\text{ph}}|_{K,k_\rho=0} = \frac{D^2 \omega_{0j}}{c} m_{j,z}^{\text{ph}} \left[\sin(\theta_2) \cos(\theta_1) \left(\frac{d_2}{n_2} + \frac{d_1(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_1^2 n_2} \right) + \sin(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) \left(\frac{d_1}{n_1} + \frac{d_2(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_1 n_2^2} \right) - \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \frac{c(n_1^2 - n_2^2)^2}{2n_1^3 n_2^3 \omega_{0j}} \right]^{-1}, \quad (7b)$$

where we take $\theta_{1,2} = \theta_{1,2}|_{\omega_j=\omega_{0j}}$.

At $k_\rho \ll 1/D$ a photonic band gap appears at the K direction. Let us find a half-width of the band gap in the structure without embedded QWs following the method described in the Supplemental Material to Ref. 32. We introduce the parameter $\zeta = \frac{n_1 d_1}{n_2 d_2} - 1$ that characterizes the relative optical path lengths in the structure layers. Generally speaking, for a modified Bragg structure this parameter is close to zero. The center of the photonic band gap is characterized by a Bragg frequency that according to³⁶ is given by $\omega_B = 2\pi c / (n_1 d_1 + n_2 d_2)$. We introduce the parameter $\delta = \omega_{01} / \omega_B - 1$ that is also small in comparison with 1. We expand Eq. (6) up to the second order in ζ and δ . As a result, we obtain the following expression for δ : $\delta = \pm \frac{(n_1 - n_2)\zeta}{2(n_1 + n_2)}$. Now it is easy to find a half-width of the band gap as $\Omega_B = \omega_B |\delta|$.

In accordance with the foregoing, the eigenfrequency of the lower photonic branch at $K, k_\rho = 0$ is given by

$$\omega_{01} \simeq \omega_B - \Omega_B. \quad (8)$$

B. Modified Bragg mirror with embedded QWs

When adding the QWs to the structure, a new term describing the exciton impact appears in the right-hand side of the Eq. (6):

$$\frac{ir_{\text{QW}}}{t_{\text{QW}}} \left\{ \cos(\theta_2) \sin(\theta_1) + \left[\frac{n_1}{n_2} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) - \frac{n_2}{n_1} \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) \right] \sin(\theta_2) \right\}. \quad (9)$$

The expressions for the effective exciton-polariton masses in the vicinity of the saddle point can be obtained by the same technique as described above in the form

$$m_{j,z}^*|_{K,k_\rho=0} = m_{j,z}^{\text{ph}} + i\Theta_1, \quad (10a)$$

$$m_{j,\rho}^*|_{K,k_\rho=0} = \frac{D^2 \omega}{c} m_{j,z}^* (\Theta_2 - i\Theta_3)^{-1}. \quad (10b)$$

The parameters $\Theta_{1,2,3}(\omega_0, \Gamma_0)$ that characterize the QW exciton impact on the optical properties of the considered RHMM are found in the form

$$\Theta_1 = \frac{\hbar r_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}}{c D^2 t_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}} \left\{ i \frac{c r_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}}{\Gamma_0 t_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}} \left[\cos(\theta_2) \sin(\theta_1) + \sin(\theta_2) \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) - \frac{n_2}{n_1} \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) \right) \right] + \left[d_1 n_1 \cos(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) - \sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2) \left(d_2 n_2 + \frac{d_1(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_2} \right) + d_2 n_2 \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) - \frac{n_2}{n_1} \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) \right) \cos(\theta_2) \right] \right\}, \quad (11a)$$

$$\Theta_3 = \frac{c^2 r_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}}{t_{\text{QW}}^{(0)}} \left[\sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2) \left(\frac{d_2}{n_2} + \frac{d_1(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2n_2 n_1^2} \right) - \frac{d_1}{n_1} \cos(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) + \frac{c}{n_1^2 \omega_{0j}} \cos(\theta_2) \sin(\theta_1) + \frac{c}{n_1 n_2 \omega_{0j}} \left(\frac{n_1^2}{n_2^2} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) + \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2n_2^2}{n_1^2} \right) \right) \sin(\theta_2) - \frac{d_2}{n_1} \left(\frac{n_1^2}{n_2^2} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) - \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) \right) \cos(\theta_2) \right], \quad (11b)$$

the parameter Θ_2 is the rectangular bracket in the right

part of Eq. (7b); $r_{\text{QW}}^{(0)} \equiv r_{\text{QW}}|_{K,k_\rho=0}$, $t_{\text{QW}}^{(0)} \equiv t_{\text{QW}}|_{K,k_\rho=0}$.

In the vicinity of the saddle point of LB, the effective mass tensor components $m_{\rho,z}^* \equiv m_{1,\rho,z}^*$ have opposite signs. This is clearly seen in Fig. 2(d) where the dependencies of the inverse in-plane (green surface), m_{ρ}^* , and transverse (red surface), m_z^* , effective masses on the position in the 1st BZ are shown. One can see that $m_{\rho}^* > 0$ while $m_z^* < 0$. It also should be mentioned that for the considered model structure the absolute value of m_z^* is at least one order of magnitude smaller than m_{ρ}^* . For example, according to Eqs. (10), the ratio $|m_{\rho}^*/m_z^*|$ at the saddle point is about 20.1 for QW-free structure, 21.6 for the structure with embedded QWs with $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 2$ meV and grows to 30.7 for the structure with $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 10$ meV. Such a big difference introduces a strong anisotropy to the optical properties of the considered structure.

III. LIGHT SPEED MANIPULATION IN RHMM

First, let us discuss the propagation of a femtosecond laser pulse in the growth direction of the structure (z -axis). We consider the Gaussian pulse in the form

$$E(z, t) = E_0 \exp \left[-\frac{(t - t_0)^2}{2t_w^2} \right] \exp[-i\omega_c t] \exp[-ik_z z], \quad (12)$$

centered on the frequency ω_c ; E_0 determines the pulse amplitude, t_w is the half-width duration of the pulse. Here we consider the wave packet whose spatial width ρ_w exceeds the in-plane structure size, and we assume the intensity of light to be uniformly distributed in the QW plane in each layer. We consider the normal incidence geometry. In the numerical calculations we take $t_w = 50$ fs and $t_0 = 0.1$ ps, $\hbar\omega_c = 0.95 \times \hbar\omega_X \simeq 2.8$ eV; $k_{\rho} = 0$.

Figures 3 (a) and (b) demonstrate light pulse propagation in the structure calculated for different values of Γ_0 . In Fig. 3(a) we take $\Gamma_0 = 0$, which corresponds to the QW-free Bragg mirror. In Fig. 3(b) we consider the case of a Bragg mirror with embedded QWs characterized by a high radiative decay rate, $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 10$ meV. Propagation of light has been modelled in the system starting with a vacuum layer of width $25 \times D$ on the left-hand side of the structure. In the middle part of the system we have placed an RHMM of 200 layers of width D each. The right-most part represents a $25 \times D$ thick vacuum layer again. It is clearly seen that $v_{g,z}$ significantly decreases with the increase of Γ_0 . It is also confirmed by Figs. 3 (c) and 3(d) demonstrating the dependence of $v_{g,z}$ on Γ_0 (c) for the fixed values of ω_c and its dependence on ω_c (d) for several fixed values of Γ_0 . Such a tendency can be qualitatively explained as follows. Once the parameter Γ_0 increases, the lowest branch moves down in energy, see Figs. 2 (a) and 2(b). Since in the vicinity of $K, k_{\rho} \simeq 0$ the dependence $\omega(K)$ for the lowest branch is convex, to conserve the energy the wave packet should reduce its wavevector and group velocity $v_{g,z}$, see EFCs in Fig. 2(c). It is important to mention that this conclusion is only correct in a specific frequency range, namely,

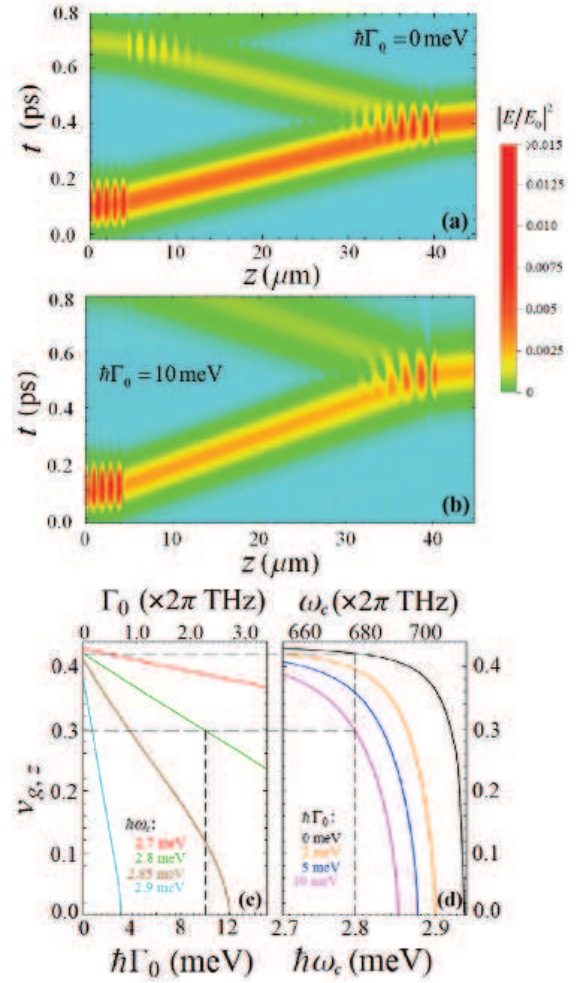


FIG. 3. (Color online) Femtosecond laser pulse propagation in the multilayer structure schematically shown in Fig. 1. The parameter $\hbar\Gamma_0$ is taken as (a) 0 meV (that is equivalent to the absence of QWs in the structure) and (b) 10 meV. Graphs (c) and (d) demonstrate the parametric dependencies of the group velocity of light in the z direction, $v_{g,z}$, (c) on Γ_0 for a number of fixed values of the wave-packet central frequency component ω_c and (d) on ω_c for different values of Γ_0 with $k_{\rho} = 0$. Values of $v_{g,z}$ are given in units of the speed of light in vacuum c . The vertical dashed lines correspond to Γ_0 in (c) and ω_c in (d) from (a) and (b). Horizontal dashed lines indicate the group velocities of the wave packet, with the considered values of Γ_0 .

for $\omega_c < \omega_0$.

The regular optical patterns in Figs. 3 (a) and 3(b) describe the interference of the propagating pulse and the pulses reflected from vacuum-RHMM and RHMM-vacuum interfaces.

IV. NEGATIVE REFRACTIVE RESPONSE OF RHMM

Let us now consider a different geometry of the experiment, where a monochromatic spatially focalized light beam enters the structure from its side and propagates in the ρz plane; see the inset in Fig. 4. We consider the transmission of light through the interface between vacuum and RHMM. The medium on the left is a vacuum characterized by a familiar linear dispersion $\omega = ck_{\text{vac}}$. The spatially modulated structure of a Bragg mirror we now consider in the continuous approximation as a homogeneous effective dielectric medium characterized by the dispersion given by Eq. (5) and by the tensorial effective mass of photons. This approximation is valid if the typical spatial size of the light beam (beam width z_w) is much larger than period of the structure, $z_w \gg D$, and at sufficiently low incidence angles.

Now we consider the propagation of a monochromatic Gaussian light beam of frequency ω_c

$$E(z, \rho, t) = E_0 \exp \left[-\frac{(z - z_0)^2}{2z_w^2} \right] e^{-i(K_0 z + k_\rho \rho)} e^{-i\omega_c t}, \quad (13)$$

where z_w is the beam spatial width. The beam propagates at an oblique angle to the structure, that is set by K_0 . In our simulations we take $z = 0$, $z_w = 12 \times D$, and $\omega_c = 0.95\omega_X$. The wave vector component K_0 is taken as $K_0 D = 0.6$. To model the propagation of light in the ρz plane of the structure, we use the transfer matrix technique adapted for the new geometry. We check the accuracy of this numerical procedure in limiting cases by analytical calculations realised in the effective photonic mass approximation using the expressions (10) for the effective mass tensor components in the vicinity of the saddle point.

Figure 4 demonstrates the light beam propagation in the ρz plane of the structure without [Fig. 4(a)] and with [Fig. 4(b)] embedded QWs in the regime of a high radiative decay rate $\hbar\Gamma_0 = 15$ meV. We considered the model RHMM of $30 \times D$ width limited by vacuum on both sides.

One can see from Figs. 4 (a) and 4(b) that the light beam undergoes the negative refraction in the considered geometry. Moreover, since the absolute value of the effective mass in the z -direction is one order of magnitude larger than the in-plane mass, the negative refraction appears to be very strong. Clearly, the advantage of polaritonic RHMM over dielectric PC structures is in the suitability for the external control of the refraction angle in a range of several degrees that is achieved just by tuning the value of Γ_0 . This tuning can be done, *e. g.* by application of the external bias (see the Appendix). Figures 4 (c) and 4(d) demonstrate the dependencies of the refraction angle on Γ_0 (c) for the fixed values of ω_c and on ω_c (d) for the fixed values of Γ_0 . One can see that the absolute value of the refraction angle decreases with the increase of Γ_0 . This tendency is maintained as long as the frequency of the beam ω_c is less than ω_0 . If this

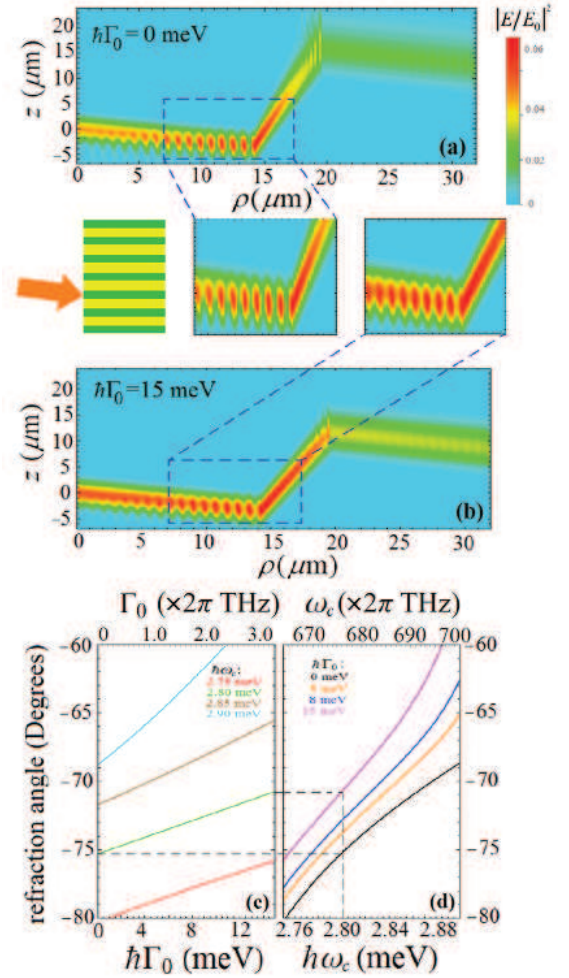


FIG. 4. (Color online) Focalized light beam propagation in the ρz plane simulated for different values of Γ_0 . The parameter $\hbar\Gamma_0$ is taken as 0 eV for (a) and 15 meV for (b). Panels (c) and (d) show the dependencies of the refraction angle on Γ_0 for a number of fixed values of ω_c and on ω_c for different values of Γ_0 with $K_0 = 0.6D^{-1}$. The vertical dashed line on (d) corresponds to the value of ω_c taken from (a) and (b). Horizontal lines indicate the refraction angles of the beams for the considered values of Γ_0 .

condition is violated, some values of k_ρ in the vicinity of the first BZ center become forbidden, which affects the shape and angular dispersion of the beam.

We also note that the parameter Γ_0 significantly affects the spread of the optical beam. Comparing Figs. 4 (a) and 4(b), it can be concluded that the increase of Γ_0 up to a certain limit reduces the light beam blurring. This is also correct only in the limit of $\omega_c < \omega_0$. Finally, we want to mention that Figs. 4 (a) and 4(b) also illustrate qualitatively the influence of Γ_0 on the transmission properties of RHMMs. The variation of transmittivity affects interference patterns in the vicinity of the surfaces of the considered structure.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have considered a planar RHMM based on a modified Bragg mirror with embedded periodically arranged QWs. The optical properties of this RHMM are tunable by changing the radiative decay rate of embedded quantum wells. The latter can be done by application of external electric and magnetic fields due to their strong influence on the exciton oscillator strength (see the Appendix). This enables one to control the group velocity and propagation direction of light as well as its spatial distribution.

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Appendix: Impact of the external electric field on the exciton radiative decay rate

Here we discuss the mechanism of tuning of Γ_0 by the external bias. It is known that the radiative exciton lifetime τ_{rad} in a quantum well z direction is governed by the overlap of the electron and hole wave functions $\psi_e(z)$ and $\psi_h(z)$ and the exciton in-plane Bohr radius a_B (Refs. 34 and 35). In general, τ_{rad} is larger, the smaller the overlap integral $[\int \psi_e(z)\psi_h(z)dz]^2$. The following expression links these parameters^{35,37}:

$$\Gamma_0 = \frac{1}{2\tau_{\text{rad}}} = \bar{\Gamma}_0 \left[\int \psi_e(z)\psi_h(z)dz \right]^2, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where $\bar{\Gamma}_0 = \sqrt{\varepsilon_B} \omega_{LT} k_0 a_B^3 / (a_B^{2D})^2$ is the quantity of the appropriate dimension, ε_B is a background dielectric constant, ω_{LT} is the longitudinal-transverse splitting frequency, a_B and a_B^{2D} are the exciton Bohr radii in the bulk and in QW, respectively. The electron-hole overlap integral is strongly sensitive to the applied electric field normal to the QW plane due to the quantum confined Stark effect, see *e. g.* Ref. 38. Generally speaking, both a_B^{2D} and the overlap integral in (A.1) depend on the applied electric field, however this dependence for the former is negligibly weaker than for the latter and can be ignored.

To estimate the overlap integral, one should solve Schrödinger equations for both electron $\psi_e(z)$ and hole $\psi_h(z)$ envelope functions associated with the eigenenergies $E_{e,h}$:

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_i^*} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + V_i(z) + q_i F z \right] \psi_i(z) = E_i \psi_i(z), \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where $i = e, h$; m_i^* is the effective mass; $V_i(z)$ is the potential for the i -th carrier that in the simplest case

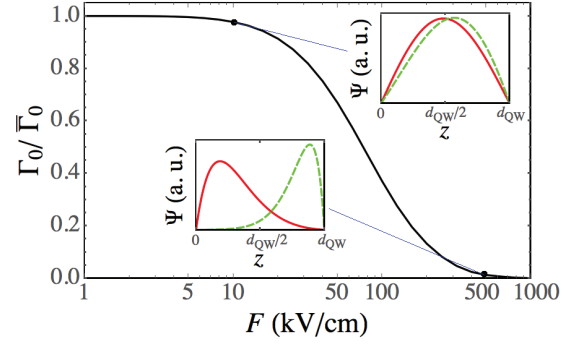


FIG. 5. (Color online) Squared electron-hole overlap integral in dependence on the applied external electric field. The latter is given in logarithm scale. The inserts demonstrate schematically the wave functions of an electron (red solid curves) and a hole (green dashed curves) in QW at specified values of F that are 10 kV/cm (for the lower insert) and 500 kV/cm (for the upper insert).

we take equal to zero inside QW and to infinity outside. F is the stationary external field applied in the growth direction, and q_i determines the charge of the i -th carrier.

Next, we use the variational approach to retrieve electron and hole wave functions. We take trial functions in the form³⁹

$$\psi_e(z) = A_e \sin\left(\frac{\pi z}{d_{\text{QW}}}\right) e^{-\alpha_e \frac{|z|}{d_{\text{QW}}}}, \quad (\text{A.3a})$$

$$\psi_h(z) = A_h \sin\left(\frac{\pi(d_{\text{QW}} - z)}{d_{\text{QW}}}\right) e^{-\alpha_h \frac{|d_{\text{QW}} - z|}{d_{\text{QW}}}}, \quad (\text{A.3b})$$

where $A_{e,h} = A_{e,h}(\alpha_{e,h})$ are normalization parameters determined from the orthonormality condition $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi_{e,h}|^2 dz = 1$. $\alpha_{e,h}$ are the only variational parameters that are found by minimization of the carrier energy

$$E_i = \langle \psi_i | H_i | \psi_i \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_i^*(z) H_i \psi_i(z) dz, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

where H_i represents the Hamiltonian corresponding to Eq. (A.2). For the estimations we take the carriers' effective masses $m_e^* = 0.2m_0$ and $m_h^* = 0.8m_0$ with m_0 being the mass of a free electron, and the QW width $d_{\text{QW}} = 10$ nm. Figure 5 shows the squared electron-hole overlap integral as a function of the applied electric field. It is clearly seen that for the strong fields exceeding 1000 kV/cm the overlap integral is sufficiently small. At the same time, for the fields less than 1 kV/cm it remains unchanged. These estimates define the tunability range of the applied field that allows one to manipulate Γ_0 .

It is necessary to mention that the theoretical curve presented in Fig. 5 does not reflect the true dependence of the estimated parameters on the external field. A number of additional effects that have not been taken into account in the simulations can modify the dependence quite considerably. For example, the external field applied in the QW plane direction leads to spatial separation in electrons and holes and it also leads to change of

the overlap integral, see Ref. 40. Another possible effect is associated with the screening of the electric field by the counteracting field generated by free carriers. The partial cancellation of the internal field impact with the increase the free carrier's density have been discussed in^{41,42}. In contrast with thin (on the order of 1 nm width) QWs, in the thicker (10 nm) GaN-based QWs, the carriers are spatially separated due to internal electric fields. In the case of small free carrier's density a large electric field indeed induces a large spatial separation between electrons and holes, leading to a long recombination lifetime. The change of the radiative lifetime as a result of the interplay between a built-in electric field inside the quantum well and a small external electric field is discussed in⁴³. On the contrary, when the density of carriers increases, this leads to the enhancement of the induced electric field. The screening effects of the electric field due to carriers become important. They lead to the increase of the overlap integral and the decrease of the recombi-

nation lifetime as a result. In this case, the maximum on the dependence in Fig. 5 appears for large enough values of F . To take into account the screening effect, an additional term $q_i \Phi_i(z) z \psi_i(z)$ should be included in Eq. (A.2), where $\Phi_i(z)$ depends on the carrier densities $|\psi_i|^2$, see Refs. 38 and 39.

Another important factor affecting the dependence of Γ_0 on the external field is temperature. The temperature impact on the recombination lifetime was considered in, *e. g.*^{44,45}. The authors concluded from the photoluminescence intensity measurements that the radiative lifetime linearly increases with temperature, which also modifies the specified dependence.

Last but not least, although we did our calculations for GaN-based QWs of 10 nm width, the initial choice of the QW width allows us to pick up the reference value of Γ_0 in a wide range as well. To illustrate the remarkable dependence of the radiative lifetime on a QW width we refer to^{45,46} where this problem is the focus of attention.

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- * Electronic address: evgeny_sedov@mail.ru
† Electronic address: a.kavokin@soton.ac.uk
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